

Harlow Council published Oflog metric data

Metric published by Oflog relevant to Harlow are provided below. The England Median (Districts) metric reflects the middle number when considering the metrics for all District Councils in England rather than the mean average. This means that 50% district councils in England have a value equal or lower to the median figure and 50% of district councils in England have a value higher or equal to the median figure. More information on the use of Median data as a tool can be found on the Oflog website: <https://oflog.data.gov.uk/methodology/>. The data published by Oflog is made available to generate questions rather than make judgements. Context about the Harlow data for each metric is included in the table.

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Non-ringfenced reserves as percentage of net revenue expenditure (2021-22)	230.80%	146.40%
Comments: Shows Harlow Council's reserves levels are in a healthy position; reserves for Harlow are detailed within the budget papers each year and are managed by a reserves strategy which ear-marks reserves for specific purposes.		
Non-ringfenced reserves as percentage of service spend (2021-22)	208.30%	131.00%
Comments: See above.		
Total core spending power per dwelling (2021-22)	£316.34	£242.19
Comments: Total Core Spending power is a Government calculation that includes estimated Council Tax income, Baseline business rates income (before growth) and a number of unringfenced grants		
Level of band D council tax rates (2021-22)	£288.90	£192.56
Comments: This metric shows the level of council tax paid for properties on band D, Harlow has a relatively low proportion of properties on band D compared to other authorities.		
Council tax revenue per dwelling (2021-22)	£1,375.72	£1,556.44
Comments: this metric shows the average council tax paid per dwelling including major preceptors – i.e. County Council and Police		
Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power (2021-22)	8.50%	10.20%
Comments: Core Spending Power does not reflect all of the income the Council receives; therefore it is important to note that there are other income streams available to service the debt.		
Total debt as percentage of core spending power (2021-22)	2044.80%	457.50%
Comments: Harlow Council borrows to fund capital works and purchase only.		

Council tax collection rates in year (2021-22)	94.20%	97.40%
<p>Comments: During the COVID-19 pandemic, many local authorities temporarily paused or reduced recovery or enforcement action in 2020-21 and were unable to get time in court due to court closures. Authorities reported this has affected both in-year collection rates and their collection of arrears in 2020-21. For 2021-22, the resumption of court services and recovery action was slow to resume and has continued to impact collection rates.</p> <p>There are a number of special factors which may affect the amount of council tax that local authorities should have been able to collect and the amount they actually collected. Information these can be found on gov.uk at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/collection-rates-for-council-tax-and-non-domestic-rates-in-england-2022-to-2023/collection-rates-for-council-tax-and-non-domestic-rates-in-england-2022-to-2023#special-factors.</p> <p>Locally, Covid 19, and subsequent restrictions including national lockdowns, prevented all recovery and enforcement action in the financial years commencing 1 April 2020 and 1 April 2021, resulting in no formal action being taken for non payment of council tax. A significant number of households were furloughed and those claiming universal credit and council tax support in Harlow increased during this period. In light of these circumstances the collection rate achieved in 2021-22 was higher than that expected.</p> <p>The service continues to collect unpaid council tax for prior years to achieve a 99% collection rate.</p>		
Nondomestic rates collection rates in year (2021-22)	94.20%	97.40%
<p>Comments: National context in relation to this metric are the same as those for Council Tax rates as detailed above.</p> <p>Locally, whilst a significant number of businesses received Covid 19 government support this did not always translate into payment of non domestic rates. In light of these circumstances the collection rate achieved in 2021-22 was higher than that expected.</p> <p>The service continues to collect unpaid non domestic rates for prior years to achieve a 99% collection rate.</p>		

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Percentage of major planning applications decided on time (2020-22)	96.60%	89.80%
Percentage of non-major planning applications decided on time (2020-22)	94.20%	88.20%
<p>Comments: efficient practices embedded within the service provision ensures that both quality and timely decisions are made for our customers</p>		
Percentage of major planning applications overturned on appeal (2020-22)	0.00%	1.40%

Percentage of non-major planning applications overturned on appeal	1.80%	0.70%
<p>Comments: whilst this is slightly above the median for England, Harlow has very few appeals as we operate a proactive decision-making process and therefore the percentage figures can fluctuate greatly with just one decision. Nationally, only approximately 20% of all refusals are appealed and in respect of non major decisions there is approximately a 27% appellant success rate. The number of appeal decisions allowed is below the national average and gives no cause for concern.</p>		

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Number of upheld complaints (2021-22)	5.4 per 100,000 population	1.1 per 100,000 population
<p>Comments: For this period the number of upheld complaints constitutes 25% of all complaints received during that time. A new complaint process was introduced in January 2022 to improve how we respond to and learn from complaints made.</p>		

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Household waste recycling rate (2021-22)	39.70%	41.90%
<p>Comments: The tonnage collected has dropped over the years due to various local and national causes, but this has not been at the same rate that the residual waste has been increasing. The volume of residual waste negatively impacts on overall recycling % performance.</p> <p>The council carries out educate and promotion activities around waste and recycling services with the resources we have available, these being; social media channels, Harlow Times and the website.</p> <p>The council has recently taken part in a food waste recycling campaign run by Essex County Council aiming to recycle any food waste rather than disposing of this in residual waste, and discovered through this that there seems to be many households that were not aware of the weekly separate food waste collection. As a result, we have seen the volume of food waste sent for recycling increase since the campaign started. Removing food waste from residual should reduce the amount of residual waste and increase the recycling rate.</p> <p>The council has been working with Veolia to rebuild the violation (hanger) process, as this is a monitoring scheme that enables us to help residents recycle as much as possible by managing the amount of residual waste presented which should also reduce the amount of residual waste collected and increase the recycling rate.</p>		
Residual household waste (2021-22)	460.7 kg per household	501.1 kg per household
<p>Comments: Residual household waste per household is lower than the median, this has been increasing in Harlow year on year where lower would be better. As mentioned above, the council has been working with Veolia to rebuild the violation (hanger) process, as this is a monitoring scheme that enables us to help residents recycle as much as possible by managing the amount of residual waste presented which should reduce the amount of residual waste collected and increase the recycling rate.</p>		

Recycling contamination rate (2021-22)	7.80%	5.50%
Comments: Although higher than the English Council median level it is not in the worst performance range of 10% contamination rate, however as per the actions above in relation to the work carried out with Veolia to rebuild the violation (hanger) process this will help to ensure that only target materials are collected in the recycling which should help to improve the contamination rates as well.		